

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in this application. The claims are proposed to be amended as indicated above to cancel some claims, amend others, and add additional claims. Support for the proposed amendments can be found in the original claims, as well as paragraphs [0042-44] of the original specification.

Applicant respectfully requests entry of the proposed amendments since no additional claims are proposed to be added without canceling a corresponding number of claims. As well, the proposed amendments make all the claims clearly allowable in light of the remarks made in the final Office Action.

Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Nakamura et al.

The Office has rejected claims 1, 2, and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Nakamura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,508,534) for the reasons listed on page 2 of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons of record.

Nevertheless, solely in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicant has canceled claims 1-2 and amended claim 5 to depend on claim 3. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

Rejection – 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over Nakamura et al.

The Office has rejected claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Nishihara et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,541,425) for the reasons listed on page 3 of the Office Action. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons of record.

Nevertheless, solely in an effort to expedite prosecution, Applicant has canceled claim 21. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

Allowed Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the indication that claims 3, 4, 6-17 and 22-24 are allowable. Applicant has proposed to add additional dependent claims, all of which depend from these allowed claims and therefore should also be allowable.


CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, as well as those of record, Applicant respectfully requests the Office to withdraw the pending grounds of rejection and allow the pending claims.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, including a fee for any extension of time not accounted for above, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0843.

Respectfully Submitted,

By



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